

EXCISE



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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3716

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5070

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFCR, AF, PK

SUBJECT: HIGH LEVEL AFGHAN VIEWS OF RECENT INSURGENCY
PROBLEMS IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: A) KABUL 5002; B) KABUL 4881; C) KABUL 4965

1. SUMMARY: IN A CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR ON AUGUST 2,

(b)(1) (c)(5) [] GAVE LENGTHY RUNDOWN ON WHAT HE SAID WAS THE
PRESIDENT'S VIEW OF THE RECENT INSURGENCY PROBLEMS IN
THE PANJSHIR, LAGHMAN AND PAKTIA, END SUMMARY.

(b)(1) (c)(5) 2. [] SAID THAT PRESIDENT DAUD AND THE GOVERNMENT
OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) THOUGHT THERE WERE THREE SIGNIFICANT
ELEMENTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE DISTURBANCES:

A) THE GOA'S ADVERSARIES TRIED "THAT OLD BRITISH TRICK"
OF USING RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC DIFFERENCES IN AFGHANISTAN TO
STIR UP TROUBLE, BUT THE ATTEMPT WAS A FAILURE.

B) THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN WERE OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY

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(b)(1)
(c)(5)

TO GO OVER TO AN ANTI-GOVERNMENT POSTURE REFUSED AND, ACCORDING TO [] PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN HELPING GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES ROUND UP THE TROUBLEMAKERS;

C) THERE IS WIDESPREAD RECOGNITION IN AFGHANISTAN THAT THIS RECENT TROUBLE WAS THE RESULT OF MISCHIEVOUS INTERVENTION FROM PAKISTAN AND THUS THE AFGHAN PEOPLE ARE NOW MORE ALERT TO DANGERS FROM THAT QUARTER, IN [] (AND THE PRESIDENT'S) VIEW. (b)(1)
(c)(5)

(b)(1)
(c)(5)

THE AMBASSADOR ASKED [] WHETHER THERE WAS ANY EVIDENCE OF DIRECT GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN (GOP) INVOLVEMENT IN THE RECENT TROUBLE. [] SAID THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE, BUT HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE GOA WAS VERY UNHAPPY THAT THE GOP WOULD ALLOW SUCH DIRTY BUSINESS TO TAKE PLACE AND STATED THAT EFFORTS TO ADVANCE THE GOA/GOP DIALOGUE HAD BEEN SET BACK. THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED HIS ADMIRATION FOR THE RESTRAINT AND LACK OF HISTRIONICS WITH WHICH THE GOA WAS HANDLING THE SITUATION AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE INCIDENT COULD BE PUT BEHIND BOTH PARTIES AND THAT THE CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE MIGHT BE RESUMED. THE AMBASSADOR SAID IT WAS ALWAYS DISTRESSING TO THE U.S. WHEN TWO FRIENDS OF OURS HAD SEVERE DIFFERENCES.

4. []

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5. THE AMBASSADOR ONCE AGAIN ENCOURAGED RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF THE GOA IN DEALING WITH THE SITUATION. [] SAID THAT THE GOA "WOULD PUBLISH THE FACTS."

6. THE AMBASSADOR THEN ASKED HOW THE INSURGENTS WERE LIKELY TO BE TREATED. [] REPLIED THAT IN HIS VIEW (WHICH HE SAID HE HAD GIVEN TO PRESIDENT DAQUD) WAS THAT THERE BE A PUBLIC TRIAL AND PUBLIC EXECUTION (SIC). HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD TOLD HIM THAT THAT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR HIM (DAQUD). ACCORDING TO ABDULLAH THE PRESIDENT REGARDED THE YOUNG MEN WHO HAVE BEEN CAPTURED AS "HIS CHILDREN" AND WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ORDER THEIR DEATHS.

7. COMMENT: THERE IS AN APARENT DISCREPANCY IN PRESIDENT DAQUD'S (REF A) AND [] ACCOUNT OF GOP LINK TO PANJSHIR TROUBLE. PRESIDENT CLAIMED IN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR THAT "FIRM EVIDENCE EXISTS" CONCERNING PAKISTANI INVOLVEMENT WHILE ABDULLAH APPEARS TO BACK OFF FROM LINKING TROUBLE DIRECTLY TO GOP (PARA 2C ABOVE). SINCE [] WAS PRESENT AT BOTH MEETINGS, DAQUD AND [] MAY BE TRYING TO HOLD BACK ON THE QUESTION OF OFFICIAL GOP INVOLVEMENT AND BOTH MAY HAVE BEEN SPEAKING OF "INFORMAL" NON-GOVERNMENTAL PAKISTANI COLLABORATION.

[] ACCOUNT OF EVENTS ALSO DOWNPLAYS SIGNIFICANCE OF DISTURBANCES. HOWEVER, AS STATED IN REFS B AND C, WE HAVE EVIDENCE THAT THERE WAS LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN THE PANJSHIR VIOLENCE. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE DISTURBANCES IN PANJSHIR, LAGHMAN AND PAKTIA CONSTITUTED THE MOST SERIOUS TEST OF REGIME'S POLICE POWERS TO DATE. CURRAN

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